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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 262831

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, OAU, TS, RW, BY, AO

SUBJECT: A/S MOOSE MEETING WITH OAU CHAIRMAN HABIB BEN YAHIA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. BEN YAHIA'S MEETING WITH A/S MOOSE ON SEPTEMBER 27 CENTERED ON THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN DEPLOYING EQUIPMENT AND TROOPS TO RWANDA,

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EXPANSION/EXTENSION OF OAU OBSERVERS IN BURUNDI, MERGER OF THE BOSNIAN/RWANDAN GENOCIDE TRIBUNALS, AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA. BOTH AGREED THAT DEPLOYMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND TROOPS TO RWANDA MUST OCCUR QUICKLY IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE PEACEKEEPING OPERATION'S EFFECTIVENESS AND MINIMIZE LOSS OF LIFE. MOOSE OFFERED TO INCREASE USG FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OAU IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OAU OBSERVERS IN BURUNDI. BEN YAHIA TOLD MOOSE THAT THE OAU HAD BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE JUDGES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL ON RWANDA. BEN YAHIA ASKED FOR USG ASSESSMENT ON THE CURRENT

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SITUATION IN ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

2. THANK YOU: BEN YAHIA BEGAN BY THANKING THE US FOR ITS SUPPORT OF HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OAU. HE SAID THAT CHAIRING THE OAU WOULD NOT BE AN EASY JOB. BEN YAHIA

ASKED MOOSE TO CONVEY TUNISIA'S READINESS TO BE A SOLID PARTNER IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN AFRICA.

2. RWANDA PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY, BUT EQUIPMENT LACKING: HE TOLD MOOSE THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER KLAUS KINKEL AND BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILLY CLAES TO APPEAL FOR EU'S SUPPORT FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF AFRICAN TROOPS INTO RWANDA BEFORE THE DEPARTURE OF OPERATION TURQUOISE TROOPS. ACCORDING TO BEN YAHIA, TROOPS FROM GHANA, BENIN, AND THE CARIBBEAN ARE THERE, BUT "WERE ON A THIN EDGE" BECAUSE THEY LACKED BASIC EQUIPMENT. BEN YAHIA SAID THAT A CONTINGENT OF 1,000 TUNISIANS WERE AT THE AIRPORT AND READY AND ABLE TO GO.

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3. MISCOMMUNICATIONS DELAY DEPLOYMENT: MOOSE ASKED WHY THE UN HAD NOT MOVED THE TUNISIAN TROOPS IN SOONER. BEN YAHIA SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE DELIVERY OF APC'S FROM GERMANY HAD BEEN DELAYED, AND THAT U.S. C-130S NEEDED TO TRANSPORT THE TUNISIANS HAD BEEN DIVERTED FOR OPERATIONS IN HAITI. WITHOUT EQUIPMENT SUPPORT, THE UN DID NOT WANT TO SEND IN THE TROOPS. MOOSE RESPONDED THAT THE USG HAD BEEN READY TO MOVE ON THE APC'S FROM GERMANY, BUT UNAMIR HAD CHANGED ITS MIND BECAUSE THE APC'S ARE TRACK VEHICLES AND MOVING THEM INTO RWANDA WOULD DAMAGE THE ROADS. THE RESULTING DELAY IN DEPLOYMENT COULD JEOPARDIZE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE EQUIPMENT GIVEN CURRENT NEEDS FOR HAITI. MOOSE AGREED THAT THE "MISCOMMUNICATION" HAD TO BE RESOLVED URGENTLY. BEN YAHIA TOLD MOOSE THAT A MORE "TRANSPARENT" PICTURE, I.E., BETTER COORDINATION, WAS NECESSARY.

4. RAPID DEPLOYMENT IS CRITICAL: BEN YAHIA SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH THE SECRETARIAT ABOUT THE PROBLEMS IN KIGALI. MOOSE ADDED THAT THE SLOWER THE ARRIVAL OF THE TROOPS, THE RISKIER THE UN OPERATION WOULD BE. BEN YAHIA SAID THAT HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES WERE BEGINNING TO RETHINK THEIR PARTICIPATION. HE ADDED THAT THIS LENT URGENCY TO THE DEPLOYMENT

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BEN YAHIA ADDED THAT HE WAS
GOING TO TALK TO BOUTROS GHALI.

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5. MORE OAU OBSERVERS IN BURUNDI: MOOSE EXPRESSED USG APPRECIATION OF GOT LEADERSHIP IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACEKEEPING AND SUGGESTED MORE ATTENTION BE FOCUSED ON THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI. MOOSE ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF

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EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE CURRENT 47 OBSERVERS TO COVER ALL MILITARY SECTORS IN ORDER TO INCREASE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. MOOSE SAID THAT THE USG WAS PREPARED TO INCREASE ITS

CONTRIBUTION FOR OAU MONITORS ALREADY IN PLACE.

6. TRAINING FOR AND EXTENSION OF OAU OBSERVERS: BEN YAHIA TOLD MOOSE THAT THE OAU WAS ALSO LOOKING INTO ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR THE MONITORS. HE ADDED THAT BOUTROS GHALI HAD AGREED TO EXTEND THE OAU OBSERVERS' TIME, EVEN THOUGH SALIM HAD QUESTIONED THE EXTENSION BECAUSE OF ITS IMPACT ON LIMITED RESOURCES. BEN YAHIA TOLD MOOSE THAT OAU PRESENCE, HOWEVER SMALL, HAS CONTAINED THE CONFLICT. HE ADDED THAT THE TUNISIAN TEAM LEADERS HAD BEEN REPLACED BY SOLDIERS WHO HAD TRAINED IN CAMBODIA. BEN YAHIA SAID THAT WITH A NEW PRESIDENT AND THE REFUGEES EXERTING GREATER PRESSURE, THERE WERE MULTIPLIER EFFECTS THE SOLDIERS COULD NOT COPE WITH.

7. INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL: MOOSE TOLD BEN YAHIA THAT JUDGE GOLDSTONE BELIEVED THAT MERGING OF THE RWANDAN TRIALS WITH THE BOSNIAN TRIALS COULD BE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT, AND THAT A DRAFT RESOLUTION HAD ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED. HE ADDED THAT THE US HAD HOPED THAT A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMISSION OF EXPERTS WOULD BE MADE SOON. BEN YAHIA RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR JUDGES, LAWYERS, AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT. HE ADDED THAT TUNISIA HAD BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE SOME JUDGES FOR THE TRIBUNAL.

8. FOCUS ON RWANDA: MOOSE TOLD BEN YAHIA THAT KEEPING

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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S ATTENTION FOCUSED ON RWANDA REQUIRED CONTINUING EFFORTS, WITHOUT WHICH THE RISK OF FURTHER VIOLENCE AND INSTABILITY WOULD GROW AND THE IMPLICATIONS WOULD BE COSTLY.

9. RECOGNITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT IN KIGALI: BEN YAHIA TOLD MOOSE THAT SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAD INITIALLY QUESTIONED THE LEGITIMACY OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICIES, BUT THAT THE NEW LEADERS IN KIGALI HAD BEEN GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. MOOSE INTERJECTED THAT THE US WAS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT BASED ON OUR BELIEF THAT THE NEW LEADERSHIP WAS SERIOUSLY COMMITTED TO RECONCILIATION. IF THAT COMMITMENT WERE CALLED INTO QUESTION, WE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO REASSESS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOR.

10. SITUATION IN ANGOLA: BEN YAHIA ASKED MOOSE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA. MOOSE RESPONDED THAT THE US COULD SEE THE PARTIES COMING TO AGREEMENT; THE BASIC ISSUES TO BE CONCLUDED WERE NOT OVERWHELMING. ON THE OTHERHAND, THERE WAS A LOT OF MILITARY ACTIVITY THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE THE AGREEMENT. MOOSE TOLD BEN YAHIA THAT THERE WAS A NATURAL TENDENCY TO FOCUS ON UNITA EXCLUSIVELY, BUT THERE WAS ALSO CONCERN ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS THAT COULD UNDERMINE THE NEGOTIATIONS. BEN YAHIA TOLD MOOSE THAT THERE WAS HOPE FOLLOWING THE CAPE TOWN SUMMIT AND THAT OAU'S ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN SOUGHT. HE ADDED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION'S COMMITMENT TO THE PEACE PROCESS IN ANGOLA WAS FIRM.

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11. FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON SOMALIA AND THE SAHEL: BEN YAHIA INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON THE FOLLOWING WEEK AND THAT HE HOPED TO DISCUSS SOMALIA AND THE SITUATION IN THE SAHEL WITH MOOSE ON OCTOBER 4 OR 5.
CHRISTOPHER

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